

Cecelia Catherine Schwery
07/20/2005

Cecelia Catherine Schwery was born November 23, 1915, to the loving parents of John and Elizabeth Jacoby Petsche. She died Sunday, July 3, 2005, at the Denison Care Center in Denison, Iowa at the age of eighty-nine.

Cecelia was born in Westphalia, Iowa and received her education at St. Boniface Catholic School, graduating with the class of 1934. On October 12, 1937, she was united in marriage to LeVern Schwery at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. The couple settled on a farm in Panama, Iowa and in 1945 moved and purchased the family farm south of Vail, and were blessed with the birth of ten children. They resided there until 1961 and then retired and moved into the town of Vail.

She was the matriarch of the Schwery family. Cecelia was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who enjoyed her family very much. Her children and grandchildren were her life, and she will be remembered for the warmth of her kitchen and love that was offered to all.

Cecelia was a very active member of St. Ann Catholic Church in Vail. For years, she was one of the four ladies to head the funeral dinner committee and

was one of the early organizers of the Legion of Mary. For over thirty-five years she would walk to church and lead the Rosary. Cecelia was an enthusiastic member of the Altar Society, the St. Ann Quilters Club, and a member of the Get Together Club for more than fifty years.

She enjoyed baking, canning, sewing, needlework, quilting, and gardening. She traveled extensively with LeVern to Spain, Hawaii, most of the United States, South America, and was especially fond of fishing in Minnesota and Canada.

She is survived her children: Mark and his wife, Betty of Vail; John of Carroll; Richard of Vail; Roger and his wife, Gaye of Johnstown, Colorado;

and Dale and his wife, Sue of Loveland, Colorado; a daughter, Nancy Hugelback of Odebolt; and son-in-law, Jerry Vonnahme of Washington, Iowa. She was also blessed with thirty-two grandchildren and forty-six great-grandchildren. Surviving siblings are sister Estella Boettger of Harlan; brother Lawrence Petsche and his wife, Helen of Harlan; seven sisters-in-law, Helen Petsche of Harlan; Zita Engel of Westphalia; Norma Adams of Santa Cruz, California; Theresa Wellman of Neola; Veralda Schwery of Harlan; Millie Leuschen of Portsmouth; Cleo Nelsen and her husband, Newmark (Dane) of Mercer Island, Washington; and hundreds of nieces and nephews, and other relatives, and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; three sons, Michael and James in infancy; Galen Schwery and his wife, Betty; her daughter Carol Vonnahme; her son-in-law, Virgil Hugelback; her sister, Agnes Chamberlain and her husband, Irvin; six brothers, George and his wife, Susan; John and his wife, Alma; Tony and his wife, Marjorie; Frank; Leo and his wife, Catherine; and Mike; six brothers-in-law, Bill Boettger; Alfred Schwery and his wife, Romana; Leonard Adams; Larry Engel; Leonard Wellman; Melvin

Schwery; and Bill Leuschen; four sisters-in-law, Margaret Coenen and her husband, Wilford; Viola Leinen and her husband, Zeno; Magdalene Hodapp and her husband, Walter; and Verena Maiwald and her husband, Joe.

Cecelia was a respected and gentle woman to everyone who had the blessing of knowing her.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 6, 2005 at the St. Ann Catholic Church in Vail, Iowa. Fr. John Thomas served as Celebrant, Fr. Robert Chamberlain, Fr. Lawrence McCarty, Fr. Richard Remmes and Fr. Edward Murray served as Concelebrants. Irene Feilmeier provided the organ accompaniment for the St. Ann's Family Choir and also for Rose Smith and Lisa Kanne. Servers were Calder Schwery, Michael Schwery, Greg Sibbel and Taylor Kanne. Lectors were Gina Messerley and Julie Schwery.

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The family invited everyone in attendance at the service to join them in fellowship and lunch at the Vail Community Building, served by the Altar Society. The Huebner Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Honorary pallbearers were all of her grandchildren. Those serving as pallbearers were: Richard Schwery Jr., Mark Schwery II, Michael Hugelback, Calvin Schwery, Kevin Vonnahme, Gary Schwery and Adam Schwery.

A Legion of Mary Rosary was held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, with a Scriptural Wake Service at 7 p.m. at the St. Ann Catholic Church.